

Amusements Co-Night.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Art Loan Exhibition.
 BROADWAY THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 CARNO—“The Seven Years’ War.”
 DAILY THEATRE—“The Seven Years’ War.”
 GRAND OPERA HOUSE—“Hazel Kirke.”
 HAYMAKER’S SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—“Minstrels.”
 MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—“The Beggar Student.”
 NEW PARK THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 NEW YORK THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 ST. JAMES THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 THIA THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 THEATRE COMIQUE—“The Beggar Student.”
 UNION SQUARE THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 WALLACE’S THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 20 AVENUE THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 27th AVENUE THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”
 14th STREET THEATRE—“The Beggar Student.”

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Business Notices.

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 CONDENSED MILK.
 Sells always.
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 TABLES, BOOKCASES, CHAIRS, &c.
 Suitable for Holiday Presents.
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 OFFICE FURNITURE IN GREAT VARIETY.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY
 NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DEC. 24.
 THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Fifteen students were burned to death
 in Constantinople yesterday. — The Crown
 Prince arrived in Berlin. — Moody and Sankey
 closed their mission at Stegney. — The em-
 ployees of the Limerick gas-works have gone on
 strike. — The czar is still suffering from the ac-
 cident caused by being thrown from a sled. — An
 earthquake shock has been felt in Lisbon.

DOMESTIC.—Severe cold weather prevailed in
 New-England and New-York, yesterday, and snow
 fell in Virginia, North Carolina, and in many of the
 Northern States. — The building on the Yale
 College grounds known as the “Cabinet” was
 destroyed by fire, yesterday. — Mrs. Jessie Mc-
 Gee, age 101 years, died at Kappa, in Illinois, on
 Saturday. — The British steamer Irtian, which
 arrived in Boston yesterday, reports encountering
 an abandoned bark at sea. — A boiler exploded
 near Allentown, New-York, yesterday, and two
 men were killed.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Further disclosures are
 made concerning Mr. Thompson’s department, showing
 the outrageous extravagance prevailing there
 and the way in which he quarters his friends on the
 city treasury. — Yesterday was the coldest day
 of the winter. — Gerald Massey lectured in
 Brooklyn. — The Rev. R. Heber Newton spoke
 on the legend of Jacob. — Monsignor Capel con-
 cluded his lectures in New-York. — There was a
 meeting at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church to
 advocate church extension. — Turkey was
 sent by a special train to the employees of the
 Long Island Railroad. — Dr. Dio Lewis spoke
 against Prohibition.

THE WEATHER.—Tribune local observations in-
 dicate cloudy and warmer weather, with snow
 possibly turning to rain, followed at night by clear-
 ing weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest,
 10°; lowest, 4°; average, 8°.

Evidently this is not to be a green Christmas.
 The weather is seasonable; seasonable for
 enjoyment and health, and certainly cold
 enough to make the occupants of warm and
 nappy homes think of the poor.

The miners in Westmoreland County, Penn.,
 have raised a cry against the Hungarians who
 have settled among them which sounds pain-
 fully like the anti-Chinese cry of the Pacific
 Slope. They have issued a proclamation to
 whom it may concern, declaring that the Hun-
 garians must go because they work for little,
 live on little, and yet save a little. Such con-
 duct the other miners consider immoral in the
 last degree, and they do not intend to stand it
 any longer. Hence the proclamation. The
 principle laid down by the recent Labor Con-
 gress in Paris, that well-to-do workmen must
 never give their less fortunate fellows a chance
 to better their condition, seems to be finding
 favor and ready application in this country.

Another candidate for the Speakership of
 the Assembly has followed Mr. Theodore
 Roosevelt’s example, and declared himself in
 favor of a legislative investigation of the affairs
 of this city. This is Mr. Titus Sheard of
 Herkimer county. He thinks searching inquiry
 is especially called for by THE TRIBUNE’S ex-
 posures of corruption in the Department of
 Public Works. This is the kind of talk we like
 to hear from candidates for the Speakership.
 The man who gets that talk will have it in his
 power to appoint a committee that will make
 honest and efficient inquiry into the grave
 charges against Mr. Thompson, or one which
 will show the accused Commissioner untrue
 favor.

The last report is that England has informed
 the Khedive that it will not attempt to recon-
 quer the Sudan, nor allow Egypt to do so; but
 that there is no objection to any other Power’s
 assuming the task so long as Tewfik incurs no
 expense. This seems to let Turkey in. That is
 the only Power which has shown any desire to
 undertake the job and pay the cost of it. And
 even when the Porte says it will carry on the
 war at its own expense it means that it will do
 so if England will make a new Turkish loan.
 Turkish bonds are not highly esteemed by the
 English just now. Until the conditions of the
 problem change, therefore, the Mahdi’s chances
 of holding the Sudan are fair.

The Parisians are wild and foolish with de-
 light at the victory of their troops at Sontay.
 They speak as if it were a great defeat for the
 Chinese, and as if it would certainly frighten the
 Government at Peking out of all idea of resisting
 the demands of the Republic. The fact is, that
 there were only Black Flags and Anamese
 troops at Sontay, and as Tseng, the Chinese
 Ambassador, points out, his Government has al-
 ways made a great distinction between an
 attack on Sontay and Bac-Ninh. It is to be
 hoped therefore that M. Ferry’s Government

has more sense than the press and the idlers of
 Paris. If it has it will appreciate the diplo-
 matic advantage which Admiral Courbet’s suc-
 cess gives it, and hasten to extricate the Repub-
 lic from the very unpleasant predicament into
 which this wild Tonquin expedition has led it.

Judging from the number of persons who
 visited the Bartholdi Statue Loan Exhibition
 yesterday at the National Academy of Design,
 there are certainly many people in New-York
 who favor the opening of art galleries and
 museums on Sunday. The rooms were well
 filled all day; but if the visitors were working
 people in the accepted sense of the term, the
 working people of New-York dress much better
 than is generally supposed and know much more
 about art than they get credit for. Moreover,
 they hardly seem to be in crying need of
 Sunday privileges of this kind. As a matter of
 fact we suspect that the visitors were people
 who would not have been driven to liquor stores
 for amusement yesterday even if the Academy
 had been kept closed as usual. However this
 may be, it is to be regretted that what
 is termed a liberal movement in behalf of the
 working classes in this city should be the cause
 of unpleasant feeling between the Academicians
 and the managers of the Exhibition.

AN INFLUENCE THAT MUST BE BROKEN.

There is probably no public officer in the
 Nation who has the right to expend, with so
 little restriction, such an enormous sum of
 money as is annually placed at the disposal of
 the Commissioner of Public Works of this city.
 Outside of New-York it is not likely that an
 officer as faithless as Commissioner Thompson
 has been shown to be could retain his control
 over such a fund for a single week. But in this
 city the influence of such an official is far-reach-
 ing. It stretches into Grand Jury rooms and
 into executive offices, and is not without repre-
 sentation on the bench and in legislative halls.
 The fear of reprisal from a person wielding
 such a great political power not only over-
 awes and influences the official activity of the
 city, but reaches to Albany.

It is certain, however, that such an influence,
 no matter how exerted, cannot long stand up
 against the power of right. The people of this
 city will not calmly submit to see their money
 recklessly squandered by Commissioner
 Thompson or anybody else. It is clear from the
 revelations printed in THE TRIBUNE to-day,
 and in previous issues, that there is scarcely
 any end to the methods followed in the Public
 Works Department of evading the law and
 squandering the people’s money.

One of the first things the Legislature should
 do is to repeal the act which authorizes Com-
 missioner Thompson to expend \$1,000,000
 annually without any restriction further than
 that it shall be expended to increase the water
 supply. As is shown to-day, this law is being
 mismanaged and wasted in an extraordinary
 manner. A public work that was started under
 it, and which Allan Campbell said would cost
 the city a little over \$2,000,000, is being made
 by Commissioner Thompson to cost over twice
 that amount. Large sums are annually expended
 for travelling expenses, professional services
 and in other doubtful ways. But this is the same
 story that has been told, from the official
 records, in regard to other funds.

With the experience the city has had with
 Tweed and Thompson it ought to be able to
 secure legislation that will protect it from
 further abuses of this kind. The same loose
 laws that allowed Tweed to steal millions have
 caused a loss to the city of other millions under
 his successors. It is time that such laws were
 repealed. If this is done, the nutrient will be
 taken from politicians of the Thompson school,
 and their organizations will fall to pieces.
 When that end is accomplished it will be pos-
 sible for honest and deserving men to get into
 office without bowing the knee to a political
 boss. An economical and efficient city govern-
 ment will then be possible.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.

The controversy over the proposed erection of
 a municipality in London continues to be car-
 ried on with increasing energy and bitterness
 in the press of that city. That the incorporation
 of the huge metropolis will be effected is the
 general belief, even those who most oppose it
 appearing to think it hopeless to do much more
 than register their protests. The old and pres-
 ent form of government, though it certainly has
 answered its purpose remarkably well, consid-
 ering its clumsy and makeshift character, must,
 in the natural course of evolution, be at some
 time superseded by a single, centralized organi-
 zation. The Vestries, though often ridiculed,
 and not seldom justly, have at all times given
 the people of London a fair measure of order,
 comfort and convenience, and thus far (and
 this is of itself a strong point) there has been
 scarcely any misappropriation of public funds.
 It is true that the Vestries have not been in-
 trusted with the administration of any extensive
 improvements. Undertakings like the Thames
 Embankment and the metropolitan sewerage
 system have been in the hands of the Board of
 Works. This Board has always been composed
 of men of high administrative ability, and it
 has never been tainted by partisanship. But
 the rapid spread of democratic theories and the
 adoption of American political methods have
 concentrated a formidable influence, all of
 which is being exerted in furtherance of the in-
 corporation scheme. The Liberals are strongly
 in favor of it, partly because all the tenets of
 their party lead them to regard it as a move-
 ment in advance, and partly because they ex-
 pect through their organization to strengthen
 themselves greatly by it.

The opponents of the measure argue that
 the putting of such enormous administrative
 powers in the hands of one body of men will be
 dangerous in many ways. They point to the
 examples of Paris and New-York, and say that
 under the proposed municipality London may
 become a focus of sedition, like the first-named
 of these cities, or a focus of corruption, like the
 second. The Saturday Review says: “The cor-
 poration of New-York expends between six and
 seven millions a year, and neglects all its ad-
 ministrative duties.” Other papers intimate
 that if the municipal government has the com-
 mand of the police force, some 12,000 disci-
 plined men, it may, in the hands of some bold
 demagogue, some day undertake to coerce Par-
 liament. Of course all the possible objections
 are put in the strongest light, and very lurid
 pictures are drawn of the London of the future.
 According to these prophets of evil it will be a
 combination of Paris under the Commune and
 New-York under the Tweed régime, and the
 general effects will be heightened by a stimu-
 lating dash of dynamite politics.

No doubt there are dangers involved in the
 change, but our English cousins must have
 strangely lost confidence in themselves if they
 are daunted by these difficulties. It does not
 seem to have occurred to them, however, that
 one of their greatest dangers will be the almost
 irresistible temptation offered by the prospect
 of plundering London to our local political
 chieftains of industry. There are many of these
 who might see in this incorporation of the great
 city not merely an opportunity to feather their
 nests as they have not been feathered since

Tweed’s time, but also a magnificent opening
 for a crushing vengeance upon the hated Saxon.

BULLDOZING IN THE SENATE.

A strange report is current that the Southern
 bulldozer is about to make himself felt in the
 United States Senate. It is said that the nomi-
 nation of Mr. Emory Speer to be United States At-
 torney for the Northern District of Georgia,
 which is now before the Senate for confirmation,
 is to be delayed by Southern Senators, and, if pos-
 sible, defeated. Mr. Speer has committed various
 crimes which have aroused the righteous indig-
 nation of Southern Democrats. First, he broke
 loose from Bourbonism, and ran for Congress
 as an Independent Democrat. To complete the
 enormity of his offence, he was elected. After
 his term was finished, he accepted this ap-
 pointment as District Attorney, which was
 tendered to him because Republican talent in
 that region was scarce, and he seemed to be the
 kind of man who would prosecute election
 cases. When Mr. Speer had taken this place,
 his last estate, in the eyes of the Bourbons, was
 worse than his first. But he went still further.
 He prosecuted seven Georgia Democrats for
 bulldozing, and had the effrontery to convict
 them. Worst of all, five out of the seven con-
 fessed the crime, which convinced the Bourbons
 that Mr. Speer was even a more desperate
 character than they had thought him. Finally,
 he was assigned by the Government to aid in
 the prosecution of the South Carolina election
 cases, and his presumption was such that he
 actually invaded that proud Commonwealth for
 the purpose of arraiving certain of her citizens
 at the bar of justice just like criminals,
 although they had merely been committing a
 few genteel election frauds.

It is said that the people of South Carolina
 were greatly incensed, and put upon Mr. Speer
 every slight which social intolerance could
 devise. Also that the two South Carolina
 Senators, Messrs. Hampton and Butler, propose
 to delay his confirmation, and even prevent it,
 if they can. We cannot believe that they will
 be allowed even to postpone confirmation. Let
 the majority take up Mr. Speer’s name and pass
 him. It will be a strange thing if the confirma-
 tion of a Government officer can be made to wait
 in the Senate because he has done his duty in
 punishing election frauds.

MR. DORSHEIMER’S PLAN.

Congressman Dorsheimer’s plan for dealing
 with the problem of preserving the Adirondack
 forests seems likely to commend itself to the
 good sense of the Legislature. Public sentiment
 is now in a fair way to be aroused to the
 importance of saving the woods, and the chief
 question is as to the wisest means to be chosen.
 Mr. Dorsheimer, whose connection with the
 Niagara Commission has led him to give special
 attention to these subjects, proposes that the
 Legislature shall appoint a commission to select
 such forest lands as it is advisable for the State
 to buy, and that the question shall be submitted
 to the people at the fall election whether they
 will authorize a loan to pay for such lands as
 the commission shall deem it wise to purchase.

This seems to be a judicious measure. The
 appointment of the commission by the incoming
 Legislature will insure a prompt inquiry. The
 submission of the question of purchase to the
 people will place the responsibility of the
 whole matter upon them. If they vote against
 purchase, that mandate is final. If they vote in
 favor, legislators would not need to trouble them-
 selves with any questions of personal responsi-
 bility for the plan. The only work of the
 Legislature then would be to scrutinize care-
 fully the recommendations of the commission,
 and so act as to carry out the instructions of
 the people without placing an unnecessary
 burden upon the Treasury. The probability is
 that the people would vote in favor of the
 purchase. The State is practically out of debt.
 The need is urgent. There seems to be no way
 for the State to save the forests except by own-
 ing the lands, and a system could be adopted of
 purchasing large and important tracts in turn,
 which would make the increase in the debt
 gradual. The operation of such a scheme would
 need to be carefully watched for jobs, but with
 proper supervision it ought to be possible to
 administer it honestly.

There are great advantages in the idea of
 submitting the proposition to the people—one
 of principle, others of policy. It is right that a
 question of such importance, involving a con-
 siderable expenditure of money, should be
 submitted to a special vote of the people. If
 they vote in favor of the purchase, the rest of
 the work will be easy. A bare proposition to
 the Legislature to buy Adirondack lands, com-
 ing without any definite approval from the
 people, will fill the souls of timid legislators
 with vague terrors. Many of them will fear the
 charge of extravagance from demagogues, if
 they vote for it, and will tremble for their re-
 election. If it comes to them with a vote of the
 people in its favor, they will be relieved of all
 responsibility, and have only to consider the
 ways and means.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

The holidays are at hand, and the stringency
 which often precedes the close of the year does
 not appear. Money is abundant at low rates,
 and the banks reported on Saturday an increase
 of \$2,438,000 in reserves, and a surplus of
 \$6,894,750 above legal requirements. The
 surplus at this time last year was \$1,600,000
 less, and yet was thought extraordinarily large,
 and it was then falling and is now rising. The
 superabundance of money in the banks is ex-
 plained by the operations of the Treasury; the
 balances December 1 and December 22, as re-
 ported from Washington, were:

	December 1.	December 22.	Difference.
Gold coin and	\$216,722,761	\$217,121,367	\$398,616
Silver dollars	129,397,225	129,451,748	1,067,523
and bullion	27,063,682	27,063,682	0
Fractional silver	60,964,775	60,964,775	0
U. S. notes	12,265,000	14,350,000	2,085,000
Total cash	\$426,348,402	\$428,601,922	\$1,057,920
Gold certificates	\$90,285,130	\$90,285,130	0
Silver certificates	88,258,101	94,276,911	6,018,810
Outstanding	14,265,000	14,265,000	0
U. S. currency	\$184,808,531	\$174,827,061	\$9,981,470

While increasing its cash on hand only one
 million, and that wholly in silver, the Treasury
 has increased the volume of outstanding paper
 notes by ten millions in three weeks, four mil-
 lions in gold notes and six millions in silver notes
 having been issued in excess of the amounts
 paid into the Treasury. This inflation of the
 paper circulation goes on while the power of
 the Treasury to meet its obligations is not gain-
 ing at all. The increase in gold held by the
 Treasury is more than covered by the decrease
 in amount of United States notes held; the
 silver dollars and bullion and the fractional
 silver are entirely unavailable for the redemption
 of Government obligations; and there are now
 outstanding about \$300,000,000 of United
 States notes and \$172,000,000 of certificates,
 to be redeemed by \$217,000,000 gold. While
 Congress has been waiting to get itself organ-
 ized, the paper currency has been inflated \$10,-
 000,000, and yet it is reported that Mr. Carlisle
 will entrust the chairmanship of the Committee
 on Coinage to Mr. Bland, the author of the first
 and worst silver bill.

Otherwise than in its dependence upon bad
 legislation, the business of the country is visibly
 improving. Secretary Swank, of the Iron and

Steel Association, looks for no further depres-
 sion in that important branch, and has advices
 from all parts of the country that the workmen
 are consenting to the reductions that are made
 necessary by the state of trade. President
 Clark, of the Thomas Iron Company, says the
 pig-iron trade is looking fairly, and that his
 company will start three furnaces January 1,
 making 16 in operation against 22 last
 New Year’s, but complains that prices of steel
 rails are depressed by sales at very low figures.
 The cotton and woolen manufactures are also
 reducing wages or curtailing production to some
 extent, but there is a general feeling that the
 industries are in a more healthy condition al-
 ready. The holiday trade has been large, and
 the increase in numbers of failures reported is
 wholly in small and unimportant firms, while
 the close approach of yearly settlements with-
 out embarrassment is generally regarded with
 satisfaction. The truth is that there has been a
 great deal of apprehension, half superstitious
 and half rational, about the business of the
 last half of 1883. Many men had no better
 reason for alarm than that the last great panic
 was in 1873. Others foresaw with clearness the
 operation of causes which have made the half
 year generally disheartening, but lacked con-
 fidence in the ability of the country to support
 the strain. Thus there are many reasons for
 rejoicing that we are safely over the year
 1883.

It is said with truth by *The Commercial and*
Financial Chronicle of Saturday that “the least
 favorable feature in the commercial outlook
 is the speculation in produce, and more
 especially in wheat, which has resulted in the
 ‘latter being piled up in stock until there are
 now over 35,000,000 bushels in sight.’” This
 accumulation has been caused, in great meas-
 ure, by an elaborate campaign of statistical men-
 dacity and misrepresentation, in which the de-
 mand from every quarter has been exaggerated
 and the supply looked at through the wrong
 end of a telescope, until believing holders have
 become convinced that Europe must, sooner or
 later, pay us what price we please for our
 wheat. Now the official report by the
 Bureau of Statistics, which was issued
 last week, shows that for five months of
 the new fiscal year the exports have
 actually been 34,892,469 bushels of wheat,
 against 67,481,659 for the corresponding
 months of last year. This does not look
 like an extraordinary demand from abroad.
 Moreover the official records prove that in
 September, when the exports were less than
 half as large as in September, 1882, the average
 export price was just the same for the two
 years, and in October it was also just the same,
 but the exports declined from 10,000,000
 bushels in 1882 to 4,587,000 in 1883. These
 things do not indicate the near approach of
 starvation abroad. As to the crop and surplus
 of this country, it is noticeable that all the ar-
 guments for high prices begin by discarding the
 official statements of the Bureau of Agriculture,
 and substituting others which make the supply
 a great deal less.

The stock market has been kept on the rack
 by the disagreements of managers of railways.
 The latest report as to the Iowa pool was that
 the Burlington had determined to build another
 line to cut into the traffic of the Union Pacific.
 But railroads are not built in a day, and the
 speculations of managers do not often last long
 enough to make the construction of a new road
 a helpful adjunct. The disagreement of Eastern
 trunk lines may or may not be terminated
 by the latest order of the Executive Committee,
 which goes into effect to-day, but that order
 was certainly calculated to prevent further cut-
 ting of rates this winter. It is noticed that the
 four great trunk lines all made larger earnings
 in excess of operating expenses in 1882-3 than
 in 1881-2, and the aggregate of their net earn-
 ings was \$17,988,088 last year, against \$43,-
 198,218 for the previous year. The New-York
 Central increased in net earnings about 11½
 per cent, the Baltimore and Ohio about 16½
 per cent, and the Pennsylvania and Erie each about
 7 per cent.

NOTES OF BUDDHISM AND BRAH-
MANISM.

The Nineteenth Century Club was the scene of
 an animated discussion of Buddhism the other eve-
 ning, and some novel views on the subject were
 advanced. Undoubtedly the religion of five hundred
 millions of people is deserving of study, and when
 its investigation is conducted in a scientific spirit
 much may be learned from it. But no good can
 be expected from attempts to belittle whatever
 is admirable in that or any other faith, or from as-
 sertions such as were made on this occasion, that
 the teachings of Buddha were “intensely selfish,”
 that he was moved by “a cowardly desire to escape
 existence,” and that he preached a “pessimistic
 doctrine of extinction as the best fate for the human
 soul.” For none of these statements are warranted
 by what is known of the facts. The three essential
 features of Buddha’s code were, self-control, kind-
 ness to other men, and respect for all manifestations
 of life. He taught that conduct was the sole means
 of salvation, and thereby he destroyed reliance
 upon sacrifice. As to the doctrine of Nirvana, it is a
 safe assertion that it has been misunderstood and
 misinterpreted by Western Orientalists, and that it
 does not mean annihilation. As taught by Buddha
 himself this doctrine, says Beal, “seems to have in-
 cluded in it more than the enjoyment of a state
 of rest consequent on the extinction of all causes of
 sorrow.” Another high authority, W. W. Hunter,
 says that the mission of Buddhism “was to make new
 moral, kinder to others, and happier themselves;
 not to propitiate imaginary deities.” The Indian,
 Ceylonese and Chinese Buddhists themselves do
 not admit the Western interpretation of Nirvana,
 and as to the other views put forward at the
 Nineteenth Century Club, neither Eastern nor
 Western scholars would acknowledge them.

An attack was also made upon Brahmanism,
 which was very contemptuously spoken of. But
 Orientalists know well that not only India but the
 whole world is greatly indebted to Brahmanism,
 which with all its defects and shortcomings has
 been, for more than three thousand years, the chief
 agency of progress and enlightenment in India.
 The Brahman, says Dr. Hunter, “is an example of a
 class becoming the ruling power in a country, not
 by force of arms, but by the vigor of hereditary vir-
 tue and temperance.” And he adds that “the para-
 mount position which the Brahmins won resulted,
 in no small measure, from the benefits which they
 bestowed. For their own Aryan countrymen they
 developed a noble language and literature. They
 were not only the priests and philosophers, but also
 the law-givers, the administrators, the men of
 science and the poets of their race.” The philoso-
 phy they built up is certainly a profound one, and
 Buddhism has modified and improved their religion.
 Both Buddhism and Brahmanism merit the most
 careful examination by all who are interested in the
 growth of religions, and it is a fortunate circum-
 stance that of late the general interest in this class
 of inquiries has much increased.

But it is necessary to point out that many of the
 opinions expressed at the Nineteenth Century Club
 the other evening were altogether behind the times,
 and appeared to be based upon that general Western
 ignorance of Oriental religion and philosophy which
 prevailed a generation ago. The more that is known
 of these religions the more reasonable they appear,
 and when their supposed doctrines seem to run
 counter to any pronounced tendency of the human
 mind, such an apparent contradiction is due to the
 incorrectness of the interpretation placed on them,
 rather than justify a sweeping denunciation
 of the doctrines as irrational and absurd.

The merchants and insurance men who appeared
 before the Sinking Fund Commissioners on Friday
 in behalf of the Ramapo Valley water scheme de-

served the respectful attention which they received.
 The need of more water in the business part of
 New-York is undoubted, and it may be that a good
 way to get it would be to allow the Ramapo Valley
 Company to furnish the supply. But the hesitation
 of the men who form the company to let them-
 selves be known, naturally and properly excites
 suspicion. If they are responsible persons, and if
 there is no job in this business, why do they keep
 themselves so persistently in the dark? There is
 nothing to be ashamed of in a legitimate business
 venture, even if there are millions in it. It is too
 much to expect the city to go into an undertaking
 of this kind with its eyes shut. The Commissioners
 did wisely in laying the matter on the table until
 they were informed who is behind it.

While the use of steam from the cars to melt the
 snow on the Elevated Railroads works well for the
 companies, it is not altogether satisfactory to the
 public. To passers-by who do not happen to be
 provided with umbrellas or rubber coats, the
 shower-bath furnished is not a pleasant incident to
 travel.

Standholders in Fulton Market complain that
 their retail business has largely decreased since the
 Bridge was opened. This is rather unfortunate,
 considering that the city has been to a large ex-
 pense in rebuilding the market. But it is not
 probable that the wholesale trade will be affected,
 although when proper transit facilities are pro-
 vided for passengers on the Bridge, and the tolls are
 reduced, as they ought to be, it is likely the Fulton